



U.S. Department of Justice

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For Immediate Release:

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EVENT: Complaint

Defendant: Rula Nadim Al Aouar, M.D.

DEARBORN HEIGHTS PHYSICIAN ARRESTED FOR NATURALIZATION FRAUD

United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced that Rula Nadim Al Aouar, M.D., 36, of Dearborn Heights, Michigan was arrested earlier today on a previously sealed Criminal Complaint charging her with Naturalization Fraud, or, unlawfully procuring her United States citizenship through fraud and false statements. Dr. Al Aouar was released in federal court in Detroit today on an unsecured bond; a preliminary examination was scheduled for September 25, 2007.

United States Attorney Murphy said, "Our Office continues to vigorously and systematically pursue those who have obtained their U.S. citizenship unlawfully. The notion that an immigrant can rest easy once he or she receives citizenship papers under false pretenses is a false assumption indeed," Mr. Murphy emphasized.

The Complaint alleges that Dr. Al Aouar, a Lebanese national, unlawfully and fraudulently procured her United States citizenship by offering cash to a U.S. citizen to engage in a marriage fraud with her in 1992, and then engaging in numerous acts of perjury, false representations and forgery in furtherance of the fraud. Additionally, Al Aouar allegedly sought asylum by claiming to have been persecuted by the Lebanese foreign terrorist organization,

Hizballah. After committing a series of alleged fraudulent criminal acts unbeknownst to U.S. immigration authorities, Dr. Al Aouar ultimately obtained U.S. citizenship in 2000.

The Naturalization Fraud charge carries a maximum penalty of 10 years' imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine together with automatic de-naturalization upon conviction.

A Complaint is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. Trial cannot be held on felony charges in a complaint. Only a federal grand jury can return a felony indictment. In the event of an indictment, every defendant is entitled to a fair trial in which it will be the government's burden to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

In announcing the arrest, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy commended the work of the Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, who conducted the investigation, as well as the Special Agents of Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Diplomatic Security Service, U.S. Department of State who assisted in the investigation. The prosecution is being handled by Assistant United States Attorney Kenneth R. Chadwell.